



The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Tennessee



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities across the landscape to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. In the 13 southern States, the Plan serves to strengthen the firefighting organization, expand hazardous fuel reduction and management activities, and enhance economic development opportunities in rural communities.

In 2000, 2,890 fires burned 84,435 acres and destroyed 3 homes and structures in Tennessee. Estimated National Fire Allocation allocations (dollars in thousands) to Tennessee include:

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist..	
2,555	832	0	469	85	724	139	20	124	4,948

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- 18 temporary positions in the Cherokee National Forest fire organization are being filled in FY 2001. These positions will build the most efficient level of organizational readiness.
- Equipment is also being purchased and added to the fleet.
- In addition, through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP), excess Federal property is loaned to state forestry agencies and their cooperators for wildland and rural community fire protection. The total value of FEPP inventory in Tennessee is about \$5 million.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- 17,249 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been completed to date and documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- An additional 18,000 acres of planning and NEPA work to prepare for FY 2002 fuel reduction treatments is also underway in FY 2001.

- 2,000 acres of planning and NEPA work is being carried out on the Land Between The Lakes.

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.

- State Fire Assistance provides \$724,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$434,000 in base funding. The program will support Firewise demonstration projects in 30 communities; deliver Firewise training programs in 20 communities; produce a Firewise video specific to Tennessee's topography and fuel types; and develop a wildland-urban interface fire simulator.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$139,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$92,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of Tennessee's 652 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies.
- Economic Action Program focuses on high fire risk areas, mostly in the wildland-urban interface areas, where conventional prescribed burning is not feasible. The program will help support a region-wide assessment of fuel loads and burned areas, to guide planning of longer-range strategies to reduce fuel loads and minimize risks to people and property in Tennessee.
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance program will provide support to communities in burned and impacted areas. Grants will support community planning, pilot projects and activities to mitigate the impacts of past fires, reduce the risks of and prepare for future fires, and explore economic opportunities that arise from the National Fire Plan, such as establishment of dry hydrants, stewardship planning and fuel management, hazard mitigation, and utilization of wood products from removed fuels.

Lyle Laverty National Fire Plan Coordinator llaverty@fs.fed.us (720) 480-0452	Ron Coats Regional Fire Plan Coordinator rcoats@fs.fed.us (404) 347-2726	Ken S. Arney State Forester karney@mail.state.tn.us (615) 837-5520
---	--	---

August 09, 2001